Ephesians 6:1-4

*“Parents & Children”*

**Scripture:** Ephesians 6:1-4

**Memory Verse:** “*Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right…”* Ephesians 6:1

**Lesson Focus:** God wants us to obey and honor our parents.

**Activities and Craft:** Coloring Page, Discussions Questions

Craft for 1st & 2nd Graders: I will obey poster

**Introduction:** Read the story of “Peter Rabbit.” (There will be a copy for you in your room for the large group teaching.)

 Ask the kids:

 What did Peter’s mom tell them not to do?

 What did Peter do?

 Did Peter obey his mom?

**Bible Study:**

 **Ephesians 6:1-3**

√ How many of you can raise your hands and say that this is your favorite verse in the

 Bible? Why or why not?

 This is the verse that kids all over the world dread.

 But if the Bible is true and it is God’s words for us to hear and follow – then we need to

 seriously look at these few verses.

**(Large Group Teachers**) We will have in your room each of the words of Ephesians 6:1-2 on one piece of paper printed out for you. Tape the words to the board as you go through the verses.)

1. Put up the word CHILDREN

√ Who is this verse written to?

God is writing a verse just to children. These are His special words for any child who has a parent.

1. Put up the word: OBEY

√ Why don’t we like this word?

When we hear the word “obey” many of us automatically cringe.

We don’t like to obey – we like to do what we want – when we want to.

√ Do you have to teach a toddler to disobey? (No, it comes naturally)

Because we are all sinners – it is our natural sinful nature that wants to disobey.

Children have to be taught to obey.

The word “obey” hear means to “listen” and “under.” What that means is that you are to “listen under.” Obedience means to really listen to what is being said and then to act on it – or to do it.

1. Put up the word: PARENTS and IN THE LORD

√ Who are you supposed to obey?

√ Why are you supposed to obey them?

This does not mean that you have to obey anything that is against God or what the Bible says to do.

Example:

1 Samuel 20:31-34

Jonathan’s father Saul wanted Jonathan to bring David in so that he could kill him. Jonathan did not obey his father because he knew it was wrong before God. Jonathan went on in his life to obey his father – even when he did not agree with him or when Jonathan saw many of Saul’s faults.

“In the Lord” Jonathan did what was right. He did not obey his father to kill David. Because he knew that God would not want that.

But he did obey his father – even when his father was acting crazy.

1. Put up the words: THIS IS RIGHT

This is all so very simple. To obey your parents is the right thing to do. There is a “right and wrong” and this is the thing that is right.

1. Put up the words: HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER

√ What does the word “honor” mean? It means to “reverence” or respect.

This is taken right from the 10 commandments that was given to Moses on Mt. Sinai.

Exodus 20:12, *“Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the Lord your God is giving you.”*

1. Put up the words: WHICH IS THE FIRST COMMANDMENT WITH A PROMISE
2. Put up the words: “*THAT IT MAY GO WELL WITH YOU AND YOU MAY LIVE LONG ON THE EARTH.”*

This is the first of the 10 commandments to have a direct promise of blessings. Honoring your parents is very important to the heart of God.

Romans 1:30:

In Romans 1:16-17 – God tells us that salvation in through Jesus Christ

In Romans 1:18-23: God tells us that because man did not choose to believe in God –

 then God gave them over to whatever they wanted to do.

In Romans 1:28-32 – God gives us a list of all of the evil and sin that man choose to

do. The list contains things like murder, immorality, envy, strife, evil-minds, backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, inventors of evil things

And then it says, “*disobedient to parents.”*

Right in the middle of all of those terrible sins – it lists the sin of not obeying parents.

√ Do you think that obedience to parents is important to God?

1. It was the 5th of the 10 commandments
2. It is mentioned in Romans 1:30 – as a terrible sin.
3. It is mentioned throughout Proverbs – about a wise son listening to the advice of his parents.

But obeying and honoring has a lot to do with our attitude. You all have heard the story of the boy that was told to have a time out and sit in the corner. And he said, “I’m sitting down on the outside but I’m standing on the inside.” That means that he was outwardly taking his punishment but he did not like it and in his heart he was not repentant. We need to obey with a heart that says that we are doing this to please the Lord.

**Ephesians 6:4:** God’s wisdom for parents

 √ What does God tell the fathers to not do?

 “provoke the children to wrath.”

 √ What does that mean?

 It means that Fathers are not to “over” discipline their children. To not

 √ What does he tell the fathers “to do?”

 (Bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.)

That means to teach them what God says. To encourage them to follow Jesus as they follow Jesus.

**Discussion of why obeying our Parents is so hard?**

1. We are sinners! We naturally want to do what we want when we want to. Obedience is a heart attitude. We want to please the Lord – so we obey because that is what God has asked us to do.
2. The “world” does not teach obedience. Watch any TV show or cartoon and you will see children disobeying their parents. Listen to any music and you will hear words of disobedience. Social media is constantly urging kids to do or say the wrong things and often we join in with that. At school kids are constantly urging other kids to do things that their parents would not approve of.

Boys and girls – you do not just obey your parents when you are with them.

You obey your parents when you are out of the house, at school or with your friends. Don’t think that just because your parents can’t see you – that you can disobey.

1. We don’t care! We have disconnected from believing in Jesus and following Jesus. We believe – but we do not obey!

1st and 2nd graders: Go back to your class and work on your “Obey O-Meter” page and then

 your “Obey Poster”.

3rd – 5th Graders: Go back to class and discuss the following questions.

**Discussion Questions for 3rd – 5th Grades**

1. Is obeying your parents hard for you? Why or why not?
2. What are the hard things for you to obey?
3. Do you believe that the Bible is true? If you do, then do you believe that you are to do what it says?
4. Do your friends ask you to do things that you know your parents would not like you to do?
5. Who do you want to please more God or friends?
6. Rate yourself in the following area:

**I obey my parents:**

1. **All the Time**
2. **Most of the Time**
3. **Some of the Time**
4. **Almost Never**
5. **Never**

**I obey my parents:**

1. **By Complaining First**
2. **By pretending like I cannot hear them**
3. **By forgetting**
4. **By doing it later after they have asked 3 times**
5. **Promptly**

7.What can you do to try to obey your parents unto the Lord? List some action steps that you can take?